White Noon, Black Night
chapter 4

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CROSS THE OCEANS

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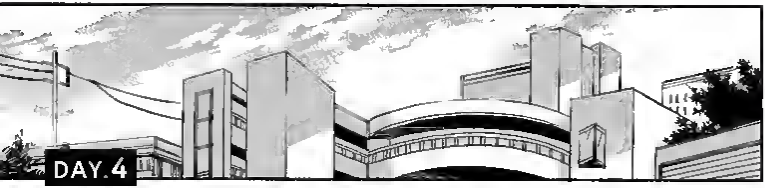
WHITE NOON, BLACK NIGHT

I WAS CRYING THE WHOLE TIME. AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, SUNDAY WAS OVER.



click
click
click
Planning Department
click
click
click
BECOMING HAPPY WHEN WE SPEND TIME TOGETHER,
AND FEELING MY HEART THROB WHEN YOU'D SMILE AT ME...
PERHAPS IT WAS ALL JUST ME GETTING EXCITED BY MYSELF.
MY FIRST LOVE, WHICH WAS LIKE A HEART FLUTTERING ROMANCE IN A NOVEL...

NIINUMA-SAN!
I WAS JUST IN LOVE WITH THAT LOVE...
Hey,
CAN I HAVE A SECOND?
Eh
BUT I'M STILL NOT FINISHED WITH WORK...
Eh-?
chatter
Hi!
chatter
YOU CAN GO, NIINUMA-KUN.
MANAGER ...
HOORAY!

CANTEEN
BUT HOW ABOUT YOU, TAKASHI-SAN? IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO LEAVE WORK?
I'M ALREADY DONE FOR THE MORNING.
WHEN I SPOKE AT THE MEETING, ALL THE HIGHER-UPS WENT SILENT AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.
Wha-
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
"ISN'T IT BECAUSE YOU'RE HAVING UNPRODUCTIVE MEETINGS LIKE THIS, THAT OUR PERFORMANCE IS GOING DOWN?" IS WHAT I SAID.
WELL, THAT IS QUITE...

twitch
YOUR EYES ARE RED, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND ANIKI?
MEN
PAS

WE ALREADY BROKE UP, THOUGH...
AS I THOUGHT, YOU AND ANIKI ARE DATING EACH OTHER.
IT'S MY FAULT THAT I WAS DRUNK IN LOVE.
OBATA-SAN WAS BEING CONSID-ERATE OF ME...
PERHAPS IT WAS VERY STRESSFUL FOR HIM...
Eh~
BUT YOU GOT A DUPLICATE KEY, DIDN'T YOU?

THAT MUST BE BECAUSE NIINUMA-SAN IS SOMEONE SPECIAL TO HIM, RIGHT?
I THINK IT'S PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME THAT ANIKI LET SOMEONE ELSE, OTHER THAN FAMILY, INTO HIS HOUSE
BECAUSE HE'S WARY OF HIS PERSONAL SPACE
BUT... I ALREADY RETURNED THE KEY TO HIM.
jingle
THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT...

EH!?
DID YOU GET THIS!?
...?
WOW... ANIKI DID THAT?
THIS IS A SUPER PREMIUM ITEM LIMITED IN KYOTO
THE KYOTO BUSINESS TRIP ON SUMMER WAS TOO SUDDEN THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO SLEEP, BUT HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO BUY THIS...

I CAN IMAGINE
BUT HE SAID IT'S JUST A SOUVENIR...
OBATA-SAN RUNNING THROUGH THE TOWN WHILE WIPING HIS SWEAT, ON THAT HOT SUMMER DAY.

HOW MANY TIMES DID HE THINK OF TURNING BACK, I WONDER?
PERHAPS HE WAS THINKING ABOUT COMPLAINTS TO SAY WHEN HE WOULD GIVE IT TO ME,
TO DISTRACT HIMSELF FROM THE HEAT.
WHILE SQUINTING AT THE BRIGHT RAYS OF THE SUN, I WONDER IF HE WAS IMAGINING THEN, AS WELL?

ABOUT MY EXPRESSION WHEN I'D REMOVE THE WRAPPING AND GET IT FROM THE BOX...
ABOUT MY FEELINGS...

pant
CREAK
BUT THAT...
IS WHAT MAKES HIM SO ENDEARING.
STOMP
PERHAPS, HE'S PROBABLY...
Nimura-san?
NOT AS SOPHISTICATED A PERSON AS I IMAGINED.

YOU SURPRISED ME... WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
step
step
ISN'T IT TOO LATE FOR THAT?
step
I WANT TO TALK...
step
haa

OBATA-SAN,
I...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT
BUT..!
!
clench

think
DIDN'T WE BREAK UP ALREADY..?
PUSH
ha
ha
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN RUN AWAY.
BESIDES...
Nn
Nn

I STILL LOVE YOU.
IF YOU LOOK AT ME WITH SUCH A FACE,
SLY...
ALL OF YOUR LIES AND YOUR REAL FEELINGS BECOME VERY CLEAR...
YOU'RE SO SLY, OBATA-SAN...

I KNOW THAT ALREADY...
AH...
SLIP
N-
NO...
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
LISTEN TO...

wee-woo
wee-woo
wee-woo

WHERE AM I?
YOU FELL DOWN FROM THE STAIRS AND HIT YOUR HEAD. .
THEY SAID IT'LL TAKE TWO WEEKS TO MAKE A FULL RECOVERY.
IS THAT SO...
tap

YOU USED TO BE SO CAREFUL ABOUT YOUR APPEARANCE. HOW VERY UNLIKELY OF YOU...
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU TO THE EXTENT THAT I COULDN'T SLEEP...
DO YOU CARE ABOUT ME THAT MUCH?

giggle
giggle
HAHA
WHY CAN YOU STILL LAUGH? EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE ONE THAT LET YOU BE HURT...
BECAUSE OBATA-SAN IS WEIRD.
YOU'VE CHANGED
...I'VE CHANGED?
THAT'S OBVIOUS!

YOU ALSO PRETENDED TO BE SO SERIOUS IN THE COMPANY
BUT WHEN THE NIGHT COMES, YOU'RE A BIT SCARY, I GUESS.
YOU'RE UNCOOL, BUT YOU'RE STILL SO COOL.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, THEN YOU'VE ALSO CHANGED.

TO BE HONEST, I INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT IF I ACT AS A GOOD LOVER LIKE I'VE ALWAYS DID UNTIL NOW, THEN THINGS WILL GO SMOOTHLY
YOU'RE BECOMING MORE AND MORE PRECIOUS TO ME
BUT YOU STILL SMILE AT ME, EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW I'M LIKE THIS

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
THAT'S THE OPINION OF SOMEONE WHO USED TO BE YOUR LOVER.
I CAN BE PROUD AND SAY THAT HONESTLY.
IF IT'S YOU, THEN YOU CAN BECOME PART OF "THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY"
YOU'RE A STRANGE PERSON AFTER ALL, OBATA-SAN. BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU WONDERFUL
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
I'M FALLING MORE AND MORE IN LOVE WITH YOU.

I'M GLAD THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
IN TRUTH, HE'S A REALLY HONEST AND KIND PERSON.
I JUST LOST SIGHT OF IT, BUT OBATA-SAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PRINCE.

touch
PRINCE
HE CRIES, BUT HE'S STILL A COOL AND KIND
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE, OBATA-SAN, I'LL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR SIDE

EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT YOUR LOVER, I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.